

ALFRETON
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Annual Report

OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR 1908.

TO WHICH IS ADDED A
SUMMARY OF WORK DONE BY THE INSPECTOR OF NUISANCES
FOR THE SAME YEAR.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH:
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• M.R.C.S., Eng., L.R.C.P., Lond.

INSPECTOR OF NUISANCES: MR. JOB SPENCER.

RED. WILLMAN, "ADVERTISER" OFFICE, ALFRETON.

To the Alfreton Urban District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I have drafted my Report this year on the same plan as in 1907, the various subjects being dealt with under the following headings:

- (1) General Statistics: Area,
Population,
Housing, etc.,
Rating.
- (2) Vital Statistics: Birth Rate,
Death Rates.
- (3) Public Health Acts.
- (4) Disposal of Sewage.
- (5) Scavenging.
- (6) Water Supply.
- (7) Supervision of business places by the Council.
- (8) Schools.
- (9) Nuisances.
- (10) Infectious diseases.

General Statistics.

Area of district in acres—Land, 4,625 acres; Water, 40 acres; Total area, 4,665 acres.

	Census. 1891	Census. 1901	1908
Population	15,300	17,560	19,560 (estimated)
Inhabited houses	3,100 (approx.)	3,515	3,954

New houses erected during year 1908—58.

Rateable Value:	Assessable Value:
£60,993 4s. 0d.	£60,487 4s. 9d.

General District Rate:

Alfreton	1/8	} in the half year.
Somercotes	2/2	
Swanwick	1/11	
Ironville	1/4	

I am of opinion that a considerable number of people have entered this district during 1908, in excess of those who have left. Practically all houses in the district are occupied.

The new houses which have been erected are of a better type than most of the older cottages, but it is to be deplored that so many are being built without water-closets. I notice that the adoption of ashbins is much more prevalent.

The provision of bathrooms is a good feature of some of the houses, for though it may be true that many of the present occupants use the bath as a receptacle for unused furniture, yet it is to be hoped that the rising generation will better appreciate the value of personal cleanliness. In the newer houses, too, the bedroom windows are made to open, and in this case again no doubt the chief benefit will be gained by the survivors of those who now spend a third of their period of growth in an atmosphere which would kill a hardy plant in two days.

Date of Building Bye-Laws—Nov. 12th, 1900; March 31st, 1902.

Vital Statistics.

	Births.		Deaths.		Deaths under 1 year.	
	617	...	267	...	80	
In 1907	... 539	...	226	...	59	
	Birth Rate.			Infant Mortality.		
	31.54			129.65		
In 1907	... 28.90			109.46		
	Death Rates per 1,000 of population.					

	A		B		C		D	
	All causes.		Epidemic Diseases.		Enteric Fever & Diarrhœa.		Phthisis.	
	13.65	...	.86	...	.71	...	.51	
In 1907	12.06	...	1.60	...	.48	...	.57	

The general death-rate for England and Wales, 1908, was 14.7 per 1,000, the lowest rate on record.

The number of births has not been exceeded since 1903, and in consequence the birth-rate is higher than the two previous years, although the population is estimated at 910 more than in 1907. The rate for England and Wales in 1908 was 26.5, which is 0.2 greater than the previous year.

The birth-rate in this district reached its lowest figure, 28.90 last year (1907).

Fifteen deaths are certified as due to premature birth, as against 16 in 1907. Thus it would appear that mothers have not advanced far in the art of preserving their unborn children.

The births were distributed throughout the district as follows:

WARDS.				MALES.	FEMALES.	TOTAL.	TOTALS IN 1907
Alfreton	...	...	...	103	97	200	163
Birchwood	...	...	...	13	16	29	30
Greenhill Lane	...	...	...	32	27	59	49
Ironville	...	...	...	30	30	60	52
Lea Brooks	...	...	...	18	16	34	30
Pye Bridge	...	...	...	8	6	14	11
Riddings	...	...	...	18	23	41	46
Somercotes and Sleetmoor	...	...	...	71	53	124	107
Swanwick	...	...	...	27	29	56	51
Totals	...	...	...	320	297	617	539
Totals in 1907	...	...	...	299	250	539	...

Birchwood and Riddings are the only two districts which do not share in the increased birth-rate, but in neither case is the difference of any significant size.

Births during various quarters of the year:—

WARDS.	1ST QUARTER		2ND QUARTER		3RD QUARTER		4TH QUARTER	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Alfreton ...	23	21	31	27	27	21	22	28
Birchwood ...	7	4	0	3	3	6	3	3
Greenhill Lane ...	7	9	13	6	4	7	8	5
Ironville ...	6	8	9	8	4	7	11	7
Lea Brooks .	6	3	5	6	2	3	5	4
Pye Bridge ...	0	2	3	3	3	1	2	0
Riddings	4	7	5	9	3	6	6	1
Somercotes and Sleetmoor...	15	10	22	23	23	10	11	10
Swanwick ...	4	6	10	6	7	12	6	5
TOTAL ...	72	70	98	91	76	73	74	63
	142		189		149		137	

Illegitimate Births, 21; in 1907, 18. Percentage of total births, 3.31; in 1907, 3.33.

DEATH RATE.

The total number of deaths has not been exceeded since 1901, nor the rate since 1903.

The chief causes of death which have increased the total are Bronchitis, Diarrhœa, and causes not classified in the tables.

These three headings account for an increase of 37.

It is not difficult to account for the first two of these cases. The year 1908 was cold and inclement, and the infant and aged suffered in consequence. The late summer and early autumn saw a plague of flies, the recognised carriers of diarrhœa germs from privy midden, pan closet, and abused ashpit to the baby's unprotected milk.

Below I have arranged the number of deaths from various causes in 1907 and 1908 in tabular form, for comparison:—

	1907	.....	1908
Measles	1	.....	1
Scarlet Fever	7	.....	1
Whooping Cough	4	.....	3
Diphtheria	8	.....	6*
Enteric Fever	5	.....	1
Influenza	2	.....	6
Diarrhœa and Enteritis ...	5	.....	19
	—		—
	32		37
	—		—

*Add 3 cases who died in Hospital.

Phthisis	11	.....	10
Cancer	9	.....	17
Bronchitis	33	.....	40
Heart Disease	19	.....	22
Apoplexy	16	.....	11
Senile Decay	14	.....	19
	—		—
	102		119
	—		—
All causes not classified in Table iv.	48	.....	69
	—		—

In Table IV. for 1908 I have indicated by || and † signs the numbers which are less or greater than in 1907.

Seventy-seven persons died at the age of 65 and upwards, and twenty-two at 80 years and upwards.

Classified Diseases which, at present, cannot be prevented, namely, Cancer, Heart Disease, Senile Decay and Apoplexy account for 69 deaths.

Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907.

The Public Health Act Amendment Act, 1890, and the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907, have been adopted by the Council.

Disposal of Sewage.

Since my last Report was issued, the Sewage Works, at Highfield, have been completed, consisting of a percolating filter of clinkers, 60ft. in diameter by 6ft. deep, with rotary distributor, to deal with 40,000 gallons of sewage per day. Cost, £235.

At Swanwick Sewage Farm the construction of a similar filter, 70ft. diameter by 6ft. deep, and designed to purify 60,000 gallons of sewage daily, was commenced.

At Meadow Lane Sewage Works 3,500 square yards of land were double dug.

Present works :—

Alfreton—

Highfield, percolation.

Meadow Lane, precipitation.

Greenhill Lane, precipitation.

Pye Bridge, precipitation.

Swanwick, Irrigation.

Newlands, percolation.

The present condition of the river Erewash is a disgrace to the Counties it touches, and it is to be hoped that, in time, that part of the nuisance which is caused by the untreated Ironville sewage will be remedied.

Scavenging.

With the exception of Ironville Ward (population about 1,000) where the work is done by the Butterley Coal and Ironworks Co., scavenging is done by seven contractors, who each work in one district. During 1908 no change was made in the methods in which the work was done, but several important alterations will be instituted in 1909.

Cost :—

Total cost, £1,045 8s. 1½d.

Total quantity of house refuse, 12,390 loads.

Average cost per load, 1s. 8¼d.

Average quantity per house, 3¼ loads.

Water Supply.

Practically every house in the district is supplied from the mains. The Reservoirs have a total capacity of 26,992,000 gallons. The population supplied by these Reservoirs is approximately 17,200.

During 1908 the total quantity of water supplied was 85,283,000, against 79,416,000 in 1907, and 71,350,000 in 1906, an increase of 3,933,000 in two years. The average daily supply was 233,652 gallons, and the average daily supply for domestic purposes was 156,676. The increase is almost entirely in the domestic supply. The supply per head per day was 9.084 gallons (supplied to 17,200 population).

The repairs to No. 1 Reservoir mentioned in my last Report appear to have been quite successful, and it is now possible to fill the reservoir with water and to keep it full, thus adding 7,000,000 gallons of water (or one month's supply) to the 20,000,000, which could be stored formerly.

The work cost £330 0s. 0d.

The watering of streets was given greater attention than in former years, most of the populous streets being watered twice daily, in hot weather.

Rainfall registered at Lindway Reservoir (650ft. above Ordnance Datum) was 20.63 inches; in 1907, 22.81 inches.

Rain measuring .01 inch and over was registered on 170 days. The heaviest day's rainfall equalled .74 inch on July 15th.

September was the wettest month of the year—Rainfall, 2.92 inches.

Other months in order—	July	...	...	...	2.72 inches.
	March	...	...	...	2.24 „
	May	...	...	...	2.24 „
	August	...	...	...	1.69 „
	April	...	...	...	1.57 „
	December	...	...	...	1.39 „
	June	...	...	...	1.37 „
	November	...	...	...	1.23 „
	February	...	...	...	1.14 „
	October	...	...	...	1.09 „
	January	...	...	...	1.03 „

Supervision of Business Places by the Council.

Inspections of all Lodging-Houses, Slaughter-Houses, Dairies and Cowsheds, Bakehouses, Offensive Trades, and Workshops have been made by the Inspector of Nuisances, with whom I have had occasion to act on several occasions. The details are further dealt with in his Report, which is appended.

Some of the Slaughter-Houses and Cowsheds leave much to be desired in their position and construction, and I hope the Council will, as occasion arises, take steps to have them removed or re-modelled.

The following is a summary of the work done under this Act:—

				INSPECTIONS.	WRITTEN NOTICES.
Factories	...	...	...	16	—
Workshops	...	...	...	122	4
Total	...	...	...	138	4

DEFECTS FOUND.

	FOUND.	REMEDIED.
Want of Cleanliness ...	8	8
Total	<hr/> 8	<hr/> 8

HOME WORK.

Lists received from employer (Sec. 107), twice in year (outworkers): Lists, 8; contractors, 3; workmen, 22. Addresses of outworkers received from other Councils, 4; forwarded to other Councils, 18. 45 inspections of outworkers' premises were made.

REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

Workshops on the Register (S. 131) at end of year:—

Bakehouses	11
Wheelwright and Carriage Builders	4
Saddler and Harness Makers ...	2
Hosiery and Underclothing	4
Boot and Shoe Makers	6
Mineral Water	2
Milliners	5
Tailors	4
Dress Makers	9
Joiners	1
Smiths	3
Tin Smiths	3
Leather Worker	1
Rope Maker	1

Total number of Workshops on Register 56

Notification was received in one instance from H.M. Inspector of Matters remediable under the Public Health Acts, but not under the Factory and Workshops Act.

Schools.

There are, in this district, 13 separate Elementary School Buildings, distributed as follows:—

Alfreton	4
Somercotes	2
Riddings	2
Ironville	3
Swanwick	2

At these schools approximately 4,000 children receive instruction.

The school buildings are of various ages, and their imperfections are more or less proportional to their seniority, while the improvements have been measured by the funds available.

At present public opinion (that is to say, parental opinion), in this district, at any rate, is apathetic in regard to the sanitary and physical conditions of the buildings in which 4,000 children spend about 1,600 hours a year for 8 years, at a time of life, too, when conditions of air, light, posture, and the like have so great an effect on the development of body and mind.

It is a regrettable fact that a large number of parents are concerned only with the end of school life, which to them means that the child becomes a wage-earner. But even from this selfish point of view, the value of the child as an investment is largely influenced by its surroundings at school.

I believe, however, that parents are gradually acquiring an interest in the school-life of their children, yet they cannot be expected to have any definite views on one aspect of the subject, until they have themselves absorbed the elements of hygiene.

The proportion of adult English people who appreciate the health value of fresh air at all times, sunlight, and personal and domestic cleanliness is astoundingly small; in fact these great life-savers, except in small doses, are regarded with cautious fear.

On the whole, people are grateful for the advice received when their children are inspected by the School Medical Officer, and do their best to have his suggestions carried out, but it must be brought home to them that the work of the School Medical Officers is also concerned with all the events and surroundings of their children's life at school.

There are many influences dealt with by the Medical Officer, but I shall deal this year mainly with the sanitary conditions of the school.

PLAYGROUNDS.

In most of the Schools these are mainly of asphalt, and are now properly sloped, trapped and drained. The drainage has been, throughout the district, comparatively recently tested, and, where necessary, modernised and repaired. In only one school is there a covered playground. Seeing that the rainfall here is fairly heavy, it is plain that a point should be made of this want.

CLOSETS AND URINALS.

In one Infant School there are separate water-closets, in another an automatic flushing trough closet. In all the other Schools pan closets are provided, and in one instance a new installation of pans was made last year, instead of water-closets. This was a most unfortunate and retrograde step, and had I been aware that it was contemplated, I should have done all in my power to prevent it. In most cases the closets are in good order, but I notice that frequently the pails are too far below the seats, an arrangement which allows of fouling of the floor around the pan. The pans are emptied with sufficient frequency, and the arrangements for doing so appear satisfactory.

The Urinals are in themselves in most Schools passable, but the flushing arrangements in many cases leave much to be desired. In some, a tap is turned on at intervals by a teacher or caretaker, which in some cases washes the trough and walls, but in others only the trough. Automatic flushing is only found in one case.

The drainage is in good order.

CLOAK-ROOMS.

On the whole, the Cloak-rooms are the worst feature of these buildings. They are, with few exceptions, dark, unventilated, not heated, and small. It is not pleasant to imagine what some of them must be like at the end of a warm wet day, and less desirable places in which to hang wet garments are not easily conceived. I have seen two exceptions to this statement, and must modify it in one or two instances, but the typical case is in the majority, and it is undeniably a matter for early improvement.

SCHOOL ROOMS.

These are so various that it is difficult to deal with them in the space available, but they are, generally speaking, either quite satisfactory, or entirely the reverse. Many of the rooms are formed by dividing a large, high, long room, with windows on either side, by glass partitions. This plan leaves the rooms too high for their size, prevents proper heating arrangements, interferes with the ventilation, and conduces to draughts.

In some cases where the rooms are separate units, they are frequently much too lofty, and the lighting is too high, and comes from the wrong aspects. This matter of position of the source of light does not seem to receive consideration, as it is the exception to see the seats arranged so that the light comes from the left front.

The prevailing type of wall has a rough brick surface, painted, and on the inevitable ledges between the bricks, dust accumulates in a short time.

In the better schools, the walls are smooth and good.

Floors are mostly deal planks, and in fairly good order; in one instance maple planks, and in another pitch-pine, are used. The floors are swept daily with damp sawdust (no disinfectant is used), and are washed three or four times a year. I do not consider, at any rate when epidemics are present, that this washing is sufficiently frequent. By washing one or two rooms in each building weekly, a much more frequent cleansing could be attained without much disorganization of existing arrangements. Also, I think the use of a good disinfectant sprinkled over the floor before sweeping would be of preventive value.

Heating is in four schools properly arranged with hot-water pipes, and and radiators, with the addition of open fire-grates, but the remainder are insufficiently warmed by open grates, if a proper quantity of fresh air is admitted, and, moreover, while one part of the room is over-heated, the remainder is too cold. The height of the rooms also militates against proper heating by open grates.

Ventilation is secured in one class of room by roof ventilators, and extraction shafts surrounding the gas chimney, with various arrangements of sloping upper windows, and a few Tobin's ventilators. In the second class, fresh air is admitted behind the hot water radiators, and extracted by fireplaces, roof-ventilators, and extractive shafts by the chimney of fireplaces.

Ventilation, except in the second class, is uncertain and on the whole unsatisfactory.

To summarise—there is one really good building in the district, satisfactory in almost all points, one which has few serious defects, and the remainder have undoubtedly more faults than virtues. It is true that even the worst have some strong point, and a very good building could be planned by selecting the best from the worst schools, but I do not think our school buildings as a whole (with the few exceptions mentioned) are capable of being converted into places entirely suitable for the purpose for which they are used, at any rate without the expenditure of much money, much more experience, and many more brains.

Nuisances.

The nuisance to which I wish to call attention, is the existence of dung-heaps, however small, from stables, cow-houses, and pig-styes in the vicinity of dwellings. Much work has of late been done to make clear the part played by flies in the dissemination of disease, and it has been proved that many diarrhœal diseases, and probably many others are spread through the promiscuous wanderings of flies. In fact the fly is one of the great enemies of civilised mankind, and is responsible directly for the death of thousands every year.

Recent research has proved that dung-heaps are the birth-places of multitudes of flies, and that the rooms of houses near such heaps are infested out of all proportion by them. But the fly has a large range of action, and therefore one dung-heap is a potential danger to probably hundreds of people. I do not think these certain facts are realised by the public, but they are none the less certain, and every effort should be made to disseminate them.

Infectious Diseases.

In 1908, 284 cases of Infectious Disease were notified. The sub-totals were as follows:—

Diphtheria	...	165	In 1907, Diphtheria	...	128	Deaths, 20.
Scarlet Fever	...	84	Scarlet Fever	...	214	
Enteric	...	15	Enteric	...	31	
Puerperal Fever		4	Spotted Fever	...	1	Total, 396.
Erysipelas	...	17	Erysepilas	...	22	

DEATHS IN 1908.

Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	9*
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	1
Enteric Fever	...	...	...	...	1
Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	...	3
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	2
					<hr/> 16 <hr/>

*In Table IV., three deaths occurring at the Isolation Hospital were omitted.

Diphtheria, Mortality 5.45 per cent. Case rate per 1,000 of population, 8.48.

This year the number of cases of Diphtheria heads the list, and the actual total is greater by 37 than in 1907.

The cases are more equally distributed throughout the district, although Ironville and Swanwick have only one case between them. The Alferton, Somercotes and Riddings school areas have practically equal numbers. The chief increase is at Ironville (twenty cases in 1908, three in 1907).

Swanwick has been free this year, having had 11 cases in 1907.

The disease is now almost to be considered epidemic, and we shall certainly have it with us for some years to come.

The mortality was 6.25 per cent in 1907, and 5.45 in 1908, both of which are below the average.

Antitoxin is supplied gratis by the Council, and has been used freely.

If some method of preventive injection could be organized, the disease would soon be stamped out, but the problem of injecting some 4,000 children with such a costly drug as Antitoxin is somewhat baffling. Even if only the members of infected families were so treated, it would mean probably about 500 injections, at a cost for materials alone of about £50. Personally, I think it would pay us both in life, health, and money to adopt any feasible scheme on these lines.

Throughout the district, with the before-mentioned exceptions of Pye Bridge and Swanwick, cases have occurred more or less continuously, no school area having been free for more than a month. August, except for Alfreton cases, was almost free, but the average was nearly doubled in September. The most consistent series was in Alfreton, where after February and March no month was free.

The details of cases are not instructive, as all practically may be classed as school infection, in some case distributed at home.

With regard to bacteriological examinations, these are not generally required to establish a diagnosis, for it seems to me a waste of time, money and trouble to take a swab from an obvious membrane. The use of such an examination appears to be two-fold: firstly to ascertain whether any persons who have been in contact with the diagnosed case are infected, and secondly to find out when a case is free from infection. There is no doubt that the use of this test should be encouraged, and arrangements made to reduce the present cost.

At present a properly treated case may cost the public perhaps £2 1s., this sum being made up as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Antitoxin for patient	0	5	0
Bacteriological examination of family ...	1	0	0 (4 members)
Preventive inoculation	0	6	0
Two bacteriological examinations (at least) of patient	0	10	0

This is almost a minimum, and the prospect of many such cases is appalling, though, of course, under these circumstances the number of cases would very rapidly diminish.

Scarlet Fever.

Case rate per 1,000 population, 4.29; case mortality per cent., 1.18.

Of the 84 cases notified, 42 were found in the Alfreton school area and 22 in the Somercotes school area. There is no doubt that Scarlet Fever is largely spread through school contact, but this is not so evident as in Diphtheria. But it is certain that one uncured case of Scarlet Fever may continue to infect an unlimited number of unprotected children, while the persistence of the Diphtheria infection is probably more transient, and generally speaking, many fewer cases of Scarlet Fever escape detection, and fewer return to school while infectious. There is a general practice of allowing Diphtheria cases to mix with other children in two or three weeks, while Scarlet Fever cases are isolated for six weeks or more. I believe that it would be better to reverse this proceeding, as I think that few uncomplicated cases of Scarlet Fever are infectious after three weeks, while many Diphtheria cases are infectious for much longer.

MONTHLY TOTALS OF CASES OF SCARLET FEVER AND DIPHTHERIA IN VARIOUS WARDS.

SCARLET FEVER.

	Alfreton.	Birchwood.	Greenhill Lane.	Ironville	Leabrooks.	Pye Bridge.	Riddings.	Somercotes & Sleetmoor	Swanwick.	Total.
January ...	7	1			1				3	12
February ...	2	3							2	7
March ...	1	1						3		5
April ...	1				1		1	1		4
May ...	1							2	5	8
June ...	10							1		11
July ...										1
August ...	5					1				5
September ...	3			1						4
October ...	4	1	1							6
November ...	5	1	1				1		1	9
December ...	3	1	2		1			4	1	12
	42	8	4	1	3	1	2	11	12	84

DIPHTHERIA.

	Alfreton.	Birchwood.	Greenhill Lane.	Ironville.	Leabrooks.	Pye Bridge.	Riddings.	Somercotes & Sleetmoor	Swanwick.	Total.
January ...	4							3		7
February ...		2	1	7	1			4		15
March ...		5	2		1	1	1	2		12
April ...	1	3		4	3			4		15
May ...	1	1	1	2				5		10
June ...	5		2	1			7			15
July ...	4		6	4			8	3		25
August ...	5			1						6
September ...	7	3	2		3		3			25
October ...	5	1		1	4		3	7		15
November ...	9	1	1				1	1		12
December ...	4		4							8
	45	16	19	20	12	1	23	29	0	165

RETURN CASES.

A certain proportion of these cases seems to be inevitable, as it would seem that some cases which present no signs of discharges from the mucous membranes, develop running ears and noses soon after their return home. I would recommend that all parents of cases should be very forcibly instructed to put their child under medical supervision on their return from the Isolation Hospital, and that any case showing signs of any discharge should return to the Hospital.

Enteric Fever, 15 cases.

Case rate per 1,000 of population, .76; case mortality per cent, 6.6. These cases were distributed as follows:—

			Months in which cases occurred.
Alfreton,	6 cases.	4 houses infected.	Feb. (2), July (1), Dec. (3)
Birchwood,	2 cases.	2 „ „	Feb. (1), Aug. (1)
Greenhill Lane,	1 case.	1 house „	July (1)
Ironville,	2 cases.	2 houses „	July (1), Aug. (1)
Pye Bridge,	1 case.	1 house „	April (1)
Somercotes,	2 cases.	2 houses „	April (1), Dec (1)
Swanwick	1 case.	1 house „	March (1)
January			1 case
February			3 cases
March			1 case
April			2 cases
July			2 cases
August			1 case
October			1 case
December			4 cases

Only three cases of the fifteen could be traced to previous cases, or simultaneous infection, and as is usual, the cause of the isolated cases could not be found. In all cases there exists one of the necessary elements of infection, namely, stored excrement.

The relation between enteric and stored excrement is proved plainly by Dr. Handford's report on the health of Nottingham for 1908, and all facts lead to the conclusion that when we cease to have pan-closets and privy middens, and rely on water carriage alone, enteric will be banished.

Disinfection.

All premises, in some cases all rooms, are disinfected by the Inspector of Nuisances after infectious disease, either with formalin or sulphur, and all bedding from cases of enteric is either sent to be steam-disinfected or is burnt.

Disinfectants, such as Izal, Kerol, etc., are supplied gratis to all cases of infectious disease.

This, Gentlemen, concludes my Report for 1908.

SYDNEY O. BINGHAM,

Medical Officer of Health.

TABLE I.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1908, and Previous Years.

Name of District—ALFRETON URBAN.

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year	BIRTHS.		TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.			
				Under 1 Year of age.		At all Ages.	
		Number	Rate.*	Number	Rate per 1000 Births registered	Number	Rate*.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1898	16,911	594	35.13	110	185.18	276	16.61
1899	17,181	558	32.48	98	175.62	286	16.22
1900	17,418	576	33.06	78	135.42	288	16.03
1901	17,560	633	36.04	97	158.23	241	13.72
1902	17,561	591	33.48	87	147.20	233	13.20
1903	17,840	635	35.39	65	133.85	254	14.23
1904	18,200	611	33.57	83	135.81	243	13.35
1905	18,350	583	31.77	75	128.64	226	12.31
1906	18,470	539	29.18	56	103.89	203	10.99
1907	18,650	539	28.90	59	109.46	222	12.06
Averages for years 1898-1908	17,814	585	32.87	80	137.42	246	13.81
1908	19,560	617	31.54	80	129.65	267	13.65

* Rates in columns 4 and 8 calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water), 4,629

Total Population at all ages, 17,560	} At Census of 1901.
Number of Inhabited Houses, 3,515	
Average number of persons per House, 4.71	

TABLE III.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1908.

Name of District—ALFRETON URBAN.

Notifiable Disease.	Cases notified in Whole District.							Total Cases notified in each Locality.										No. of Cases removed to Hos- pital from each Locality.							Total cases remov'd to Hos- pital.			
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.					65 & up- wards	Alfreton.	Birchwood	Greenhill Lane.	Ironville.	Leabrooks.	Pye Bridge	Riddings.	Somercot's Sleetmoor.	Swanwick.	Alfreton.	Birchw'd	Greenhill Lane.	Ironville.	Leabr'ks.	Pye Brig'e	Riddings.	Somerc's Sleetmoor		Swanwick		
Small-pox
Cholera
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup)
Erysipelas	165	1	34	117	10	4	1	45	16	19	20	12	1	23	29	2	11	1	1	5							18	
Scarlet fever	17	2	20	4	2	9		1	3	1	3	3	1	1	3													
Typhus fever	84			55	5	1		42	8	4	1	3	1	2	11	12	21			1							28	
Enteric fever	15		2	9	1	3		6	2	1	2	0	1	0	2	1	1		2				6				3	
Relapsing fever .. ..	..																										
Continued fever .. ..	..																										
Puerperal fever	4					4		3		1																		
Plague .. ..	..																										
Totals	985	3	56	185	18	21	1	97	29	26	26	18	3	26	45	15	33	1	4	5		6				49		

Isolation Hospital—Heage Firs, Belper.

Total available beds, 47.

Number of Diseases that can be concurrently treated, 3.

SYDNEY O. BINGHAM, Medical Officer of Health.

TABLE IV.

Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year 1908.

Name of District—ALFRETON URBAN.

Causes of Death.	Deaths at the subjoined ages of "Residents" whether occurring in or beyond the District.						
	All Ages.	Under 1 Year.	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 & under 25	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.
Small-pox							
Measles	1	1					
Scarlet Fever	1||	1					
Whooping-cough	3||		3				
Diphtheria incl'g membranous croup	6||		5	1			
Croup	1*	1					
Fever { Typhus							
Enteric	1||						
Other continued						1	
Epidemic influenza	6†	3				1	2
Cholera							
Plague							
Diarrhœa	13†	9	3				1
Enteritis	6†	3				2	1
Puerperal fever	3†					3	
Erysipelas	2†	1					1
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis) ..	10||		1	1	2	6	
Other tubercular diseases	2†		1		1		
Cancer, malignant disease	17†					9	8
Bronchitis	40†	13	9			3	15
Pneumonia	5||	1	1			3	
Pleurisy							
Other diseases of Respiratory organs	1						1
Alcoholism, Cirrhosis of liver ..	3					3	
Venereal diseases							
Premature birth	15||	15					
Diseases and accidents of parturition							
Heart diseases	22||			2		11	9
Accidents	2||					2	
Suicides	2†					2	
Senile Decay	19†						19
Apoplexy	11||	1				4	6
Septic Diseases	6†	1		2	1	1	1
All other causes	69	30	7	2		17	13
All causes	267	80	30	8	4	68	77

SYDNEY O. BINGHAM, Medical Officer of Health.

|| Less than in 1907.

† More than in 1907.

TABLE V.

Infantile Mortality during the year 1908.

Deaths from stated causes in weeks and months under One Year of age.

CAUSE OF DEATH.		Under 1 week	1-2 weeks.	2-3 weeks.	3-4 weeks.	Ttl. under 1mth	1-2 months.	2-3 months.	3-4 months.	4-5 months.	5-6 months.	6-7 months.	7-8 months.	8-9 months.	9-10 months.	10-11 months.	11-12 months.	Total deaths under One Year.
All Causes, Certified ..		1	2	1	3	24	13	3	6	7	4	4	4	2	1	4	4	76
,, Uncertified ..		1				1	1	1		1								4
Common Infectious Diseases	Small Pox ..																	
	Chicken Pox ..																	
	Measles ..											1						
	Scarlet Fever ..												1					
	Diphtheria Croup ..													1				
Diarrhoeal Diseases	Whooping Cough ..																	
	Diarrhoea, all forms						2		1	2	1	2					1	9
	Enteritis Epidemic																	2
Wasting Diseases	Gastritis ..								1									1
	Premature Birth ..	13			1	14	1											15
	Congenital Defects																	1
	Injury at Birth ..																	
	Want of Breast Milk																	
Tuberculous Diseases	Atrophy, Debility, Marasmus ..	1	1	1	2	5	3	2	1	2						1		13
	Tuberculous Meningitis ..																	
	Tuberculous Peritonitis																	
	Tabes Mesenterica ..																	
	Other Tuberculous Diseases ..																	
Other Causes.	Erysipelas ..																	1
	Syphilis ..						1											
	Rickets ..																	
	Meningitis ..																	2
	Convulsions ..		1			1	4		1									6
	Bronchitis ..	1				1	1	1		2	3		1		1	2	1	13
	Laryngitis ..																	1
	Pneumonia (Broncho)																	1
	Suffocation, overlying																	
Other Causes ..		3				3				3		1			1	1		9
		19	2	1	3	25	14	4	6	8	4	4	4	2	1	4	4	80

Population estimated to middle of 1908, 19,560.

Births in the Year	Legitimate 596.	Deaths in the Year	Legitimate Infants	80
	Illegitimate 21.		Illegitimate Infants	

Deaths from all Causes at all Ages, 267.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE ALFRETON
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of presenting my Thirteenth Annual Summary of Work carried out during the year 1908.

At the onset, I beg to state that I have been successful in getting a large quantity of repairs done and alterations to premises made without either giving a written notice or reporting the matter to the Urban Council. In some cases I have met the owner of property on the premises and have pointed out the defects and suggested the necessary repairs and alterations, and they have willingly complied with my suggestions. I think, Gentlemen, you will agree with me that it is much more pleasant to be able to get the repairs done and nuisances abated without having to serve notices.

HOUSE INSPECTIONS.—I have made 258 inspections of houses, and have served 22 notices for the repairs of houses.

DRAINAGE.—I have made 435 inspections of drains, and sent 53 notices for the reconstruction and repair of drains and for gully traps in lieu of old stench traps; 41 gully traps have been connected to the drains.

Thirty-five notices have been served for the cleaning out of choked drains. I have tested nine drains and found them faulty; these were either reconstructed or repaired.

CLOSET AND ASHPITS.—I have made 140 inspections of insanitary privies and sent 37 notices for the construction of new pail closets and for the conversion of old insanitary privies into pail closets. The outcome of the notices has been that 31 privies have been converted into pail closets and 22 new pail closets have been erected in place of old insanitary privies. This is an improvement, but it would have been far better and more healthy, also more up-to-date if the privies had been converted into water-closets.

I have sent 32 notices for ashpits and ashbins; nine ashpits have been constructed, and 34 ashbins have been provided.

ADDITIONAL CLOSETS.—I have sent six notices for additional closet accommodation; ten closets have been erected. This is a great improvement, both from a health and moral standpoint. Four closets have been converted into water-closets. I trust the time is not far distant when I shall be able to report much greater progress in the work of conversion of privies into water-closets.

BACK YARDS.—I have made 100 inspections of defective back yards and have sent 46 notices for the repaving of back yards, and some 60 new yards have been laid down. If owners and agents of cottages would only consider for a few moments, I think they would see what a great advantage it is to have good impervious yards, laid with proper fall from the house walls to a gully trap.

EAVE SPOUTS.—I have sent nine notices for the refixing and repairing of eave spouts. Defective and leaky eave spouts, if not attended to, may become very expensive to the owner of the property.

URINAL.—I have made 25 inspections of urinals and sent five notices for the repair of same.

PIGSTYES.—I have made 289 inspections of pigstyes and sent five notices for cleaning and closing pigstyes.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.—I have made 87 inspections of slaughterhouses and have served three notices for lime-washing and cleaning and one notice for repairs. I seized 42lbs. of beef, a set of lungs and a beast's tongue and had them destroyed.

COWSHEDS.—I have made 133 inspections of cowsheds and served 12 notices for lime-washing and cleaning ;also three notices for alteration of cowsheds.

WORK IN PROGRESS.—I have made 183 inspections of work in progress.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.—I have made 15 inspections of common lodging houses. These inspections are made at all hours of the day.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.—I have made six inspections of offensive trades. These places have been well cleaned and lime-washed.

I have sent 13 notices for sinkstone waste pipes; 13 new waste pipes have been connected to the sinkstones.

Two cases of overcrowding have occurred during the year, and notices were served upon the occupiers and the nuisances were abated.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.—I have made 138 inspections of factories and workshops and have served four notices for lime-washing.

OUT-WORKERS.—I have made 45 inspections of out-workers' premises, and sent 18 addresses of out-workers to other Councils.

WATER-CLOSETS.—I have made 77 inspections of water-closets and sent one notice for repairs.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.—I have made 225 visits to infectious premises to give instructions and to get particulars; I have also disinfected 218 houses. In Typhoid Fever cases I have sent the bedding to Belper Isolation Hospital to be disinfected by steam.

During the year I have collected six samples of water for analysis.

SCAVENGING.—During the year the contractors removed 12,390 loads of house refuse. This is an average of $3\frac{1}{4}$ loads of refuse per house, at a cost of one shilling and eightpence farthing per load, making a total expenditure of £1,045 8s. $1\frac{1}{2}$ d. To get this work done I have had to make 4,752 inspections of closets and ashpits, and have sent 456 notices and written 30 letters to the contractors. In one case I had to employ a man and horse to do some work the scavenger had neglected. I am very anxious that the scavenging shall be done in a smart and clean manner, for I believe that good scavenging is one of the greatest levers which may be used for the improvement of the health in our district; if neglected, it may prove to be serious and expensive, not only in £ s. d. but in health and life. I am sorry to say that some of the ashpits in this district are receptacles for all kinds of refuse, and the scavengers have many loads of refuse to remove which should have been burnt upon the premises. It is surprising the quantity of paper that is found in some of the ashpits, and even straw. When I have drawn the attention of the occupiers to this and pointed out the danger which is attached to the habit of throwing all the waste paper and straw into the ashpits, some of them have not been very pleased and have made some very unkind remarks. I trust as time goes on that we shall get improvement in scavenging.

This, Gentlemen, concludes my summary for the year 1908.

I remain,

Yours obediently,

JOB SPENCER,

Sanitary Inspector.

